United Nations A/HRC/29/12

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 April 2015
English
Original: English/French

Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Guinea-Bissau

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.15-07685 (E) 220415 230415

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Guinea-Bissau was held at the 9th meeting, on 23 January 2015. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau was headed by José Antonio da Silva Gonçalves, Adviser to the Minister of Justice on Strategic Planning. At its 14th meeting, held on 27 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Guinea-Bissau.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Guinea-Bissau: Botswana, Estonia and Kazakhstan.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Guinea-Bissau:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GNB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GNB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GNB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Guinea-Bissau through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau recalled that, after the previous Universal Periodic Review in 2010, Guinea-Bissau had undergone a further setback on the road to consolidating democracy, the rule of law, human rights and development when, in 2012, the constitutionally elected Government had once again been overthrown by the military.

6. For two long years, the international isolation suffered by Guinea-Bissau and the political crisis that had ensued had adversely affected the socioeconomic status of the population and had led to the resurgence of some deplorable cases of human rights violations.

7. It was in that difficult climate, characterized by insecurity, that general elections had been held during the first half of 2014, thanks to the commitment of the international community, in particular the United Nations, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. The objectives of a return to the normal functioning of democratic institutions had thus been set within the framework of a political dialogue, which had led to the establishment of an inclusive and representative Government.

8. With respect to the implementation of recommendations issued in the course of the first UPR cycle, Guinea-Bissau had made great efforts and had succeeded in implementing

a significant number of the recommendations. Some of the actions were still in the process of being implemented, in particular in the areas of defence, security, justice and public administration; their implementation depended not only on political will but also on a strong commitment on the part of the international community.

9. In that context and despite the constraints inherent in the current management of the country arising from its adverse economic situation in both economic and financial terms, government leaders at the highest level had extended their subregional and international contacts in order to ensure the success of the round table to mobilize resources for the implementation of the development programme, which was to be held shortly with international partners.

10. With regard to the recommendations that had already been implemented, the delegation of Guinea-Bissau drew attention to the creation of a Gender Affairs Department at the Ministry of the Interior, the creation of special units for vulnerable persons in the judicial police force, the creation of centres for access to justice with funds to support the victims of violence, through the Ministry of Justice, as part of reforms in the areas of defence, security and justice, in order to provide legal assistance to the most vulnerable.

11. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau also drew attention to the approval by the Council of Ministers, in 2011, of the bill on the protection of witnesses, which aimed to provide more security for witnesses of human rights violations, including those committed against women. Lastly, the delegation noted the drafting, in 2013, of the strategic plan for the elimination of gender-based violence. The delegation also referred to the recent adoption of the Act on female genital mutilation, the Act against trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, the Act against domestic violence, and the adoption of measures to assist the most vulnerable, including women and children, such as the hiring of social service professionals, sociologists and other persons in order to provide assistance in court proceedings.

12. Responding to previous questions, Guinea-Bissau indicated, with respect to the promotion of and respect for sexual orientation and gender identity, that until that time the issue had not been the subject of public debate as it had not yet become important enough to be made a priority in the national legislative agenda. The country faced many other issues requiring urgent attention. The question was of course a matter of concern for the country but, for the time being, it had to give way to other human rights issues. Furthermore, Guinea-Bissau could not take steps actually to decriminalize homosexual relations since such relations were not criminalized under the law. The Constitution guaranteed that all persons were equal.

13. The delegation also said that one of the important steps taken to promote the participation of women in political life and gender equality in decision-making in political life was the adoption of the national action plan on gender equality and equity, as well as the appointment of women to senior posts in the current Government, in particular the Minister for Defence, the Minister of Education, the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Women, the Family and Social Cohesion, the Health Minister, the Secretary of State for the Budget, and the Director General of the Judicial Police, besides the increase in the number and responsibilities of female members of parliament in the People's National Assembly.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 59 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

15. Uruguay highlighted the signature and/or ratification of various international instruments and the standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. It urged

Guinea-Bissau to launch the necessary reforms to achieve political stability, and to allocate the necessary human and financial resources to the national human rights commission so that it can effectively and independently carry out its mandate. It made recommendations.

16. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to comply with the recommendations that it had already received. It noted that, despite constraints, Guinea-Bissau had made progress in the area of human rights, citing the national action plan on gender equality and equity, the Domestic Violence Act, and free access to health-care services for certain vulnerable groups. It stated that the international community should offer its cooperation and technical assistance in order to enable the country to continue its progress. It made a recommendation.

17. Algeria indicated that, despite the particularly difficult context faced, Guinea-Bissau had engaged in praiseworthy institutional and legislative reforms to improve the human rights situation. Additionally, the country had acceded to a number of international and regional human rights instruments. Algeria welcomed the efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights, through the adoption of policies and programmes on health, education and poverty reduction, and strategies aimed at reforming the justice and penitentiary systems. It encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue efforts to combat violence against women and, particularly, female genital mutilation. It made recommendations.

18. Angola noted efforts by Guinea-Bissau to return to constitutional order, indicating that this would allow the Government to promote measures to improve human rights protection. It welcomed Guinea-Bissau's accession to most international human rights instruments, as well as the actions adopted for the stability of national institutions, the access to justice, health care and social and economic rights, and the cooperation with human rights mechanisms, particularly the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. It urged the international community to continue supporting Guinea-Bissau's efforts. Angola made recommendations.

19. Argentina welcomed the delegation and the presentation of the national report. It had followed with concern the political, security and human rights situation in Guinea-Bissau, as outlined in Security Council resolution 2186. It made recommendations.

20. Australia congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the progress made since the first review, which had included the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and legislation on human trafficking. It commended the free elections held in 2014, the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the actions taken to reform the defence, security and justice sectors. It also welcomed the criminalization of female genital mutilation but was concerned at reports that the practice was increasing. It made recommendations.

21. Botswana noted efforts to implement previous recommendations, in particular the adoption of laws aimed at the protection of human rights, which had included the criminalization of female genital mutilation, human trafficking and domestic violence. It commended the strengthening of the justice, defence and security sectors. It noted that the political and economic instability made it difficult for Guinea-Bissau to undertake programmes and policies aimed at protecting human rights. It made recommendations.

22. Brazil welcomed the recent positive developments in different fields of human rights promotion and protection, despite challenges related to the attainment of economic and social rights and civil and political rights. It emphasized that the recent elections had represented a significant step forward, and called upon the Government to continue its efforts towards the consolidation of democratic institutions in the country. Brazil noted Guinea-Bissau's respect for diversity. It made recommendations.

23. Cabo Verde noted the multiple challenges faced by Guinea-Bissau and welcomed the recent emergence of favourable political conditions for the promotion of human rights. It highlighted existing constraints, such as the limited institutional, financial and administrative capacity to develop, negotiate and implement the necessary reforms. It was encouraged by the determination and realism that the new Government had shown, as demonstrated by the actions that had been planned or were being developed. It appealed to Guinea-Bissau's international partners to provide it with additional support. It made recommendations.

24. Canada welcomed the 2014 elections in Guinea-Bissau, which had marked an important step in the country's return to democratic government and in its protection of the human rights of the people. It welcomed the country's agreement in 2010 to revise the provisions of its legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation, and the promulgation in 2011 of a law to that effect, and asked Guinea-Bissau to provide information on the progress made in implementing the law and eradicating that scourge. It made recommendations.

25. Chile noted the progress since the first review, namely the ratification of human rights instruments, and the implementation of new laws and programmes, including the reform of the judiciary, the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and the enactment of legislation on domestic violence and reproductive health. It urged Guinea-Bissau to continue that process, with the support of the international community. It made recommendations.

26. China appreciated the ratification of several treaties, the increased investment in the public sector, including on education, health and public services, the enhancement of the role of women in politics, the fight against existing prejudices and stereotypes against women and children, and the implementation of national plans on poverty alleviation and education. China called upon the international community to provide Guinea-Bissau with technical assistance. It made recommendations.

27. Costa Rica noted the ratification of international instruments and urged Guinea-Bissau to align its national legislation with international law and to ensure its effective implementation. It congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the 2014 election process and expressed the hope that this would mark the definitive return of the country to democracy. It noted progress on gender equality and encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue its efforts to ensure greater inclusion of women in all spheres of society, particularly in public and political life. It made recommendations.

28. Cuba acknowledged the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to human rights, despite the many challenges faced. It indicated that the reforms undertaken of the justice, defence and security sectors were important steps in implementing certain recommendations received during the first UPR cycle. It urged the international community to continue to support the country's efforts to fight HIV/AIDS. It also highlighted measures to combat poverty and to improve education. It made recommendations.

29. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted efforts made by Guinea-Bissau, despite the interruption of international aid following the political instability that the country had faced. It highlighted the adoption of legislation on trafficking and the criminalization of female genital mutilation. It noted the considerable challenges faced, including in combating poverty, in fighting effectively against transnational crime, particularly drug trafficking and money-laundering, and in improving the school attendance of girls as a way of discouraging forced and early marriages in rural areas. It made recommendations.

30. Denmark commended the constructive engagement by Guinea-Bissau in the UPR process as well as the progress that it had made in protecting human rights since its last

review. Denmark noted that, following its first review, Guinea-Bissau had ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and signed the Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT), in 2013. It indicated that the Convention against Torture Initiative, which aimed to assist Governments in overcoming technical obstacles to ratification, stood ready to explore avenues to provide assistance to Guinea-Bissau if that were deemed helpful. It made a recommendation.

31. Djibouti congratulated Guinea-Bissau on presenting its national report, and noted with satisfaction the actions that had been taken to promote and protect human rights, notably the adoption of a plan against trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children. It made recommendations.

32. Egypt recognized the measures that had been taken to enhance human rights, notably the enactment of the law on preventing and fighting against human trafficking, especially that of women and children. It urged Guinea-Bissau to pursue the same positive path, with a view to further promoting human rights. It made recommendations.

33. Estonia commended the ratification of several treaties and encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue its efforts to become a part of all main international human rights instruments. It noted the progress in implementing previous recommendations, which had included the criminalization of female genital mutilation and the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act. It was concerned about recurrent harmful practices and strongly urged the authorities to step up efforts to eradicate such practices. It was also concerned at the high illiteracy rate, the low school attendance rate and the discrimination against girls. It made recommendations.

34. Ethiopia commended the adoption of the National Policy of Equality and Gender Equity, and the National Strategy Paper on Poverty Reduction 2011–2015. It noted the special attention given to children's rights and the aim of improving basic education for all children, as well as progress in combatting infant mortality. Ethiopia encouraged Guinea-Bissau to work further on the existing mechanisms to fully implement the recommendations received during its first UPR review process. It made recommendations.

35. France welcomed the progress made by Guinea-Bissau in restoring democracy and strengthening the rule of law, especially through the proper holding of parliamentary and presidential elections in 2014 as well as by launching major reforms in the security sector. It made recommendations.

36. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau assured the speakers that it would continue to make efforts to ratify the international instruments that had been mentioned.

37. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau replied to questions raised on female genital mutilation, the education of girls, child labour, forced and early marriage, the national institution for the protection of human rights and the reform of the justice system.

38. The Government had continued its effort to raise public awareness after adopting the legislation on female genital mutilation. Some of the persons found to have been engaging in that practice had already been convicted. Those steps were a beginning and the Government intended to make further headway, in particular by raising awareness among women who engaged in those practices by tradition and by encouraging women who had abandoned the practices to join in awareness-raising campaigns by explaining all of the harm that such practices caused to children's health.

39. Regarding the steps taken to promote education, particularly where girls were concerned, the delegation of Guinea-Bissau said that, in partnership with civil society and the World Food Programme, the school meals programme had been improved. The Government also intended to adopt a series of measures aimed at improving the rate of school enrolment and retention for girls.

40. Child labour was a real scourge, especially in its worst forms. The Government was sparing in effort to achieve its eradication. It was for that reason that a national survey had been carried out in 5,000 households in order to assess the situation. On the basis of the results, and with the help of its partners, the Government intended to put in place programmes and actions to deal with the problem.

41. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau said that the Government had just approved a programme to reform the justice system, for the period 2015–2019, which generally speaking set out actions to combat impunity and corruption, to improve access to justice for citizens, to improve the judicial infrastructure and to strengthen the capacities of staff working in the justice sector. The programme would be carried out within a wider reform of the civil service and a reform of the defence and security sectors.

42. The delegation recalled that the country had just reinstated a democratic system and said that the challenges involved were enormous. The Government hoped, step by step, using existing resources, but also with the support of the international community, to introduce the measures needed to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission received the necessary resources and that it was in conformity with the Paris Principles.

43. Regarding forced and early marriage, the delegation pointed out that such behaviour was embedded in traditional culture. Eliminating the practices would take a great deal of time and would require careful handling. Nevertheless, progress had been noted on the ground and the Government intended to continue to work on the subject.

44. Guinea-Bissau did not have any political prisoners and steps were being taken to improve conditions of detention within the framework of the aforementioned reform of the justice system.

45. With respect to equality between men and women, the principle was recognized in articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution.

46. Gabon noted that difficulties linked to the political situation had hindered full cooperation with international human rights mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It appreciated the measures taken in the areas of gender equality and non-discrimination, and the reforms in the justice and security sectors. It urged the international community to strengthen its support. Gabon made recommendations.

47. Germany welcomed the renewed commitment of Guinea-Bissau to achieving stability and security in the country, and particularly to fighting against the drugs trade, which had led to significant human rights challenges. It appreciated the efforts made to combat poverty and the improvements made with regard to freedom of the press and freedom of opinion. It was, however, deeply concerned at the ongoing human rights problems. It made recommendations.

48. Ghana noted with appreciation the implementation of some of the recommendations that Guinea-Bissau had received during its first cycle, which included the ratification of many key international human rights instruments. It invited Guinea-Bissau to join the core group of the Convention against Torture Initiative, in order for it to benefit from international assistance in implementing CAT, following ratification. Ghana noted the successful presidential and legislative elections held in 2014 after several years of military conflict. It made recommendations.

49. Indonesia noted the many challenges faced in the transitional period following the internal political developments in 2012, and expressed the hope that the Government would spare no efforts in continuing to enact measures to promote and protect human rights in the country. Indonesia welcomed the review of the statutes of the national human rights commission. Furthermore, Indonesia noted the challenges being faced, which included the

high maternal and child mortality rates caused by malaria, acute respiratory infection and pneumonia. It made recommendations.

50. Ireland noted the efforts made to address the issue of female genital mutilation, particularly the 2011 law to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, the national action plan, and the strengthening of the National Committee for the Elimination of Harmful Practices. Nevertheless, it expressed concern at the continued prevalence of female genital mutilation, as well as at cases of ritual murder, noted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It made recommendations.

51. Italy commended Guinea-Bissau on its recent adoption of legislation aimed at fighting discrimination and violence against women. Italy also welcomed the national action plan to combat female genital mutilation and commended the inclusion of provisions to protect the rights of children in a number of domestic laws. It made recommendations.

52. Kuwait thanked the delegation for the presentation of its national report and welcomed the progress made by Guinea-Bissau in several areas, particularly the protection of human rights and gender equality. Kuwait encouraged continued action on health issues. It made recommendations.

53. Libya welcomed the progress made, which included the implementation of some of the recommendations of the previous UPR cycle and the ratification of several human rights treaties. Libya also noted the efforts made to review the statutes of the national human rights commission, in order to bring them into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). It made recommendations.

54. Maldives congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the successful holding of the presidential and legislative elections in 2014 and urged the Government to make the maintenance of peace and stability in the country a priority. It called on Guinea-Bissau to urgently address its economic situation, and to take substantive steps to reduce extreme poverty. Maldives reiterated the calls made by Guinea-Bissau to the international community to provide it with technical and financial assistance, which would be essential for the country to move forward with plans for its sustainable development. It made recommendations.

55. Mali welcomed the efforts that had been undertaken to better implement the recommendations received during the first cycle. It was pleased to note the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and the adoption of legislation on human trafficking. It encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue and strengthen current efforts to ensure the well-being of its population. It made a recommendation.

56. Mauritania was pleased to note that Guinea-Bissau was a party to the majority of the international human rights instruments and that it had adopted a number of laws to better protect those rights. It also noted that the country had undertaken a number of reforms, in particular in the area of education. It made a recommendation.

57. New Zealand recognized the progress made since the elections in May 2014 and commended the efforts in restoring democracy and the rule of law. It encouraged the continued strengthening of democratic institutions, and security sector reform. It also encouraged Guinea-Bissau to work towards accountability for the political violence that had occurred during the coup d'etat. It made a recommendation.

58. Montenegro noted concerns about discrimination against children living with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS, and girls subjected to multiple forms of gender-based discrimination such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. It urged the Government to take the necessary measures to eliminate negative attitudes and practices against girls, especially in rural areas. Montenegro asked whether the Government planned

to review, adopt and implement national legislation to combat transnational organized crime, particularly drug trafficking and money-laundering. It made recommendations.

59. Morocco noted the efforts made to strengthen the national human rights architecture, as reflected in the broad reforms that Guinea-Bissau had undertaken. It welcomed the mid-term review of the criminal procedure code, the national plan for civil registration, and the creation of a national forum for justice and the reorganization of the judicial map. It also congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the success of the 2014 visit of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, and noted the approval by Parliament of the statutes of the national human rights commission. It made recommendations.

60. Mozambique highlighted the fact that Guinea-Bissau had had to implement some of the recommendations that it had accepted during its first UPR cycle under conditions of protracted political instability, and praised its ratification of a number of human rights instruments. It stated that if the country had not suffered a coup d'état, it could have made additional progress. It appealed to the international community to be responsive to the new Government's plea for multifaceted assistance and capacity-building. It made a recommendation.

61. Namibia noted the political situation in the country since 2012 and commended the efforts made despite the challenges faced as a result. It also commended the adoption of the law against domestic violence, the national strategy for social protection of children, and the childhood national plan. It made recommendations.

62. The Netherlands commended Guinea-Bissau for the successful holding of its presidential and legislative elections, and for the significant increase in the numbers of women appointed as ministers. It expressed concern that girls continued to be subjected to multiple forms of gender-based discrimination and human rights violations, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriages, and the lack of enrolment in, or completion of, education. It made recommendations.

63. Mexico acknowledged the standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, and the ratification of various international instruments since the first review. It valued the adoption of several national plans, including the plan to combat human trafficking. It made recommendations.

64. The Niger congratulated Guinea-Bissau on re-establishing the democratic process and on its return to peace and stability after the recurrent crises that it had faced in the last few years. It welcomed the determination to combat all forms of trafficking, and the ratification of a large number of international legal instruments. It congratulated Guinea-Bissau on having adopted a panoply of legislative texts and regulations to guarantee access to justice, to establish minimum standards for the treatment of detainees, to combat female genital mutilation and to combat trafficking. It made a recommendation.

65. Portugal particularly welcomed the steps taken towards promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls, including the criminalization of female genital mutilation and the adoption of a national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325. It expressed its willingness to maintain its cooperation in the education and health sectors. It called on the international community to support Guinea-Bissau in those areas at the donor conference taking place on 25 March 2015. It made recommendations.

66. Romania commended Guinea-Bissau on its holding of elections in 2014, and on its cooperation with the international community. It welcomed the issuance by Guinea-Bissau of a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. It made recommendations.

67. Rwanda noted positively the measures that the Government had taken that were aimed at implementing its international human rights obligations, particularly the adoption in 2011 of the national policy for the justice sector. Rwanda also appreciated the adoption

of the national law criminalizing female genital mutilation, the campaigns to raise awareness of violence against women, and the creation of the children's parliament. It made recommendations.

68. Senegal welcomed the fact that, despite a difficult economic climate, Guinea-Bissau had continued to work towards promoting and protecting human rights. It also welcomed the adoption of the law against human trafficking and the law to combat domestic violence, as well as the initiatives taken to favour vulnerable groups such as women and children. It invited the international community to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the recommendations of the second cycle. It made recommendations.

69. Sierra Leone congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the successful holding of elections in 2014. It asked how the children's parliament worked and what issues it addressed. It urged Guinea-Bissau to seek international assistance to meet the financial and technical challenges that had impeded the promulgation of human rights in the country. It recommended the establishment of a human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. It expressed concern at the poor performance in the social sectors of health and education, and urged the international community to assist in addressing the multiple needs in those sectors. It made recommendations.

70. Singapore recognized the steps taken to educate women about their rights through public awareness campaigns. It noted that the Women's Economic Activity Organization and the Network of Agricultural Women had played an important role in empowering women through training, credit, and the development of income-generating activities. Singapore noted the efforts made to promote education via the extension of free primary education to students up to grade 6 and exemption from registration fees for the year 2014/15, as well as the reforms in the justice sector. It made recommendations.

71. Slovenia welcomed the ratification of several human rights treaties, the issuance of a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, the prohibition of the death penalty, the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and the adoption of legislation on domestic violence and human trafficking. Slovenia shared the concerns of the Security Council with regard to violations and abuses of human rights and the atmosphere of residual political tension in the country, and recalled the remarks of the Secretary-General that it would be critical for the authorities to ensure the sustainable functioning of State institutions and the timely delivery of basic services. It made recommendations.

72. South Africa commended Guinea-Bissau on the peaceful general elections held in 2014, the return to constitutional order, and the new Government's commitment to inclusiveness, tolerance, and the initiation of reforms. It encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue its efforts to promote, protect and fulfil all human rights, including the right to development. It made recommendations.

73. Spain noted the need to reform the judicial and penitentiary systems. It welcomed the law on reproductive health, which set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years, but was concerned at the increase in early and forced marriages. It commended the law of 2011 prohibiting female genital mutilation and cutting, and the National Committee for the Elimination of Harmful Practices, but noted that it seemed that cases of female genital mutilation were increasing among girls. It made recommendations.

74. The Sudan commended Guinea-Bissau on the holding of peaceful elections in 2014, and appreciated the important legislative and policymaking developments aimed at providing further protection for human rights. The Sudan noted with satisfaction the National Policy for the Justice Sector 2010–2015, the National Health Development Plan, the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction, and the national plan to combat drugs. It made recommendations.

75. Sweden stated that impunity remained a key structural problem for the State and for society; efforts to combat impunity were important in order to contribute to stability in society. Sweden noted that the law allowing for sentences of up to 10 years' imprisonment in cases of corruption in public office and the administration seemed not to have been implemented effectively, and that corruption existed at all levels and in all branches of government. It noted reports in which it was stated that corruption was a serious problem and that the situation had deteriorated over time. It made recommendations.

76. Thailand commended Guinea-Bissau on the criminalization of female genital mutilation and the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act, and on its legislation on human trafficking. It expressed concern about the sexual exploitation of minors, which occurred mainly in tourist areas. It offered assistance through its Thai-Africa Initiative in areas such as agriculture and animal husbandry in order to enhance food security and secure the people's right to food in the country. It made recommendations.

77. Timor-Leste commended the ratification of various international instruments and the implementation of a number of recommendations made in the first cycle, such as the approval of the law against domestic violence, the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and the adoption of legal measures to combat trafficking which included the adoption of the national action plan. It also congratulated Guinea-Bissau on its presidential and legislative elections, which had registered record numbers in terms of participation. It made a recommendation.

78. Togo noted with concern that the political instability had hindered the implementation of recommendations received during the first UPR cycle. It encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue its efforts to comply with its international commitments, notably the ratification of the key instruments to promote and protect human rights and the submission of all reports due to treaty bodies. It noted the measures that had been taken in the area of equality and non-discrimination, such as the adoption of a strategic plan for the eradication of gender-based violence. It made recommendations.

79. Trinidad and Tobago commended Guinea-Bissau for its resilience in the face of difficulties and its commitment to realizing its urgent, medium and long-term plans. It noted the high-level mission to Guinea-Bissau conducted by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, at the request of the Government. It commended the efforts to provide human rights training in the administration of justice and to support the national human rights commission. It made recommendations.

80. Turkey noted the difficulties that Guinea-Bissau had faced and was pleased at the peaceful holding of the 2014 elections. It noted the reform efforts undertaken after the elections, including in the security and public service sectors. It congratulated Guinea-Bissau on extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders and on its adoption of legislation on domestic violence and trafficking. It noted challenges regarding food security and birth registration, and supported efforts for poverty reduction and the protection of vulnerable children. It encouraged Guinea-Bissau to pursue efforts in the area of education. It made recommendations.

81. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the return to constitutional order, following the 2014 elections. It applauded the Government's commitment to implementing the security sector reform programme and expressed the hope that that process would reinforce the primacy of civilian authority and reduce the potential for human rights violations by members of the security forces. It urged Guinea-Bissau to accelerate plans to strengthen the justice sector, making it more accessible, reliable and independent. It noted the efforts made to encourage the abandonment of harmful practices, particularly female genital mutilation. It made recommendations.

82. The United States of America commended Guinea-Bissau for the free and fair election process in 2014. It also commended the efforts made to implement the law against female genital mutilation or cutting, and encouraged continued efforts to prevent and to respond to all forms of gender-based violence. It remained concerned at the failure to prevent the worst forms of child labour and to address child trafficking. Although Guinea-Bissau had laws prohibiting human trafficking, the Government had not used those laws to prosecute suspected human traffickers. It made recommendations.

83. The Philippines commended Guinea-Bissau on the introduction of reforms in the defence and security sectors, which would strengthen the rule of law and help consolidate peace. The Philippines also welcomed the addressing by Guinea-Bissau of its youth unemployment and underemployment, in spite of its meagre resources. It called on the international community to extend technical cooperation and other assistance to Guinea-Bissau. It made recommendations.

84. With regard to organized crime, corruption and impunity, the delegation reiterated that, as part of the 2015–2019 programme of reform of the justice system, steps were being taken to combat those problems and to improve access to justice. The programme had five main objectives: the independence of the justice system, the transparency of the justice system, the effectiveness of the justice system, a justice system equipped with sufficient and appropriate human and material resources, and the reform of the legal framework. The latter point referred not only to national laws, but also to the harmonization of national legislation in order to bring it into conformity with international legislation and instruments.

85. In addition to that programme, the Government had renewed its collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and a unit to combat drug trafficking in airports would be set up that year. Guinea-Bissau had also worked with UNODC on combating corruption through a unit that would be set up with the assistance of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

86. The Government was also taking steps to investigate the crimes mentioned by some delegations. However, the Government intended to conduct an inclusive dialogue for national reconciliation, so that the investigations did not undermine the progress made and so that they were conducted within a framework of reconciliation and transitional justice.

87. In the context of the harmonization of national legislation with Guinea-Bissau's international obligations, legal provisions would be introduced to combat organized crime, since the concept did not exist in the country's legislation.

88. With respect to access to justice, the Delegation of Guinea-Bissau stated that, during its first six months in office, the current Government had already begun building two regional courts, situated not in the capital but in regions of the country, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

89. Regarding the registration of births, a national campaign was planned offering all registrations during a period of one year free of charge in order to allow all unregistered births to be recorded.

90. Concerning trafficking of children and the commercial and sexual exploitation of girls, Guinea-Bissau recalled that the country had ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions No. 138, concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, and No. 182, concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. During the time Guinea-Bissau had enjoyed the effective support of an active ILO programme, many measures had been put in place to combat those problems. The delegation recalled the resulting establishment of a national committee on trafficking in human beings and of a national committee on combating child labour. The problem was the lack of resources. Guinea-Bissau had

received support from ILO from September 2010 to February 2014 but, since the completion of the project, the country had been left to continue the activities on its own.

91. The delegation provided information on the National Children's Parliament, an institution composed of members of youth associations, supported by the Parliament of Guinea-Bissau, which was funded with a small budget and monitored all issues relating to the rights of the child.

92. With respect to combating poverty, the delegation referred to measures adopted under the strategic instruments policy, such as the second national strategy for poverty reduction paper, as well as other measures in the social programme aimed at reducing extreme poverty, tackling the non-enrolment of girls in school, rendering the justice system more independent and effective, and combating corruption.

93. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau recalled that the situation in the country was difficult and urged the international community to continue to support the country's efforts, particularly with regard to the round-table meeting that was being organized, in the course of which the Government would present its strategic priorities and its needs in terms of development of the country and improving the human rights situation.

94. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau reiterated that it was ready to cooperate with the special procedures of the United Nations at all times.

95. Finally, the delegation thanked all participants for their attention and their encouragement.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

96. **The following recommendations will be examined by Guinea-Bissau, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council in June 2015:**

96.1 **Complete the process of ratification of international legal instruments (Gabon);**

96.2 **Expand as much as possible the ratification of the whole set of international human rights instruments recommended during the 2010 UPR and not yet ratified (Cabo Verde);**

96.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) (Denmark); ratify OP-CAT (Montenegro); ratify OP-CAT (Romania);**

96.4 **Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

96.5 **Consider ratifying ICRMW (Ghana);**

96.6 **Adopt and ratify ICRMW (Morocco); ratify ICRMW (Timor-Leste);**

96.7 **Consider ratifying human rights treaties to which Guinea-Bissau is not yet a party, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Brazil);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

96.8 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**

96.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR), already signed by Guinea-Bissau (Spain);**

96.10 **Ratify OP-ICESCR, and accept its investigation and inter-State communications mechanisms (Uruguay);**

96.11 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Ghana);**

96.12 **Ratify the Rome Statute of ICC (Romania); ratify the Rome Statute of ICC (Maldives); ratify the Rome Statute of ICC (Montenegro);**

96.13 **Ratify the Rome Statute as soon as possible (Spain);**

96.14 **Ratify the Rome Statute of ICC (signed in 2000) and incorporate it into its national legislation (Uruguay); ratify the Rome Statute of ICC and incorporate it into its national law (France);**

96.15 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of ICC (Netherlands);**

96.16 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of ICC (Estonia);**

96.17 **Accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of ICC (Estonia);**

96.18 **Accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity without making any reservations, and incorporate it into its national legislation (Uruguay);**

96.19 **Restructure and give new impetus to the National Human Rights Commission (Gabon);**

96.20 **Finalize the process of revision of the Statute of the National Commission of Human Rights to bring it into compliance with the Paris Principles (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

96.21 **Finalize the process of revision of the Statute of the National Commission of Human Rights to bring it into compliance with the Paris Principles (France);**

96.22 **Expedite the reform of its National Human Rights Commission and continue to support the implementation of the Commission's mandates with neutrality and impartiality (Thailand);**

96.23 **Speed up its efforts in reviewing the Statutes of the National Commission of Human Rights with a view to making the Commission fully comply with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

96.24 **Conclude the revision of the Statute of the National Human Rights Commission to bring it in line with the Paris Principles, also in compliance with the Lisbon Declaration and Protocol of May 2013, which creates the Network of NHRIs of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (Portugal);**

96.25 **Continue the review of the Statutes of the National Commission for Human Rights to bring them into line with the Paris Principles to arrive at the adoption of these new Statutes as soon as possible (Libya);**

96.26 **Adopt a comprehensive national human rights action plan aimed at addressing all human rights violations (Botswana);**

96.27 **Improve the performance of public institutions in the protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights in the country (South Africa);**

96.28 **Take measures to increase transparency in public administration in order to instil trust among the general public hence contributing to stability in the Guinean society (Sweden);**

96.29 **Pay the highest possible attention to children's rights, particularly through adopting a comprehensive code on children's rights (Cabo Verde);**

96.30 **Draft a national strategy and adopt a code for the protection of children (Turkey);**

96.31 **Improve the civil registration system in order to register all children at birth (Turkey);**

96.32 **Increase its efforts to raise public awareness of the fundamental rights of women and children (Sudan);**

96.33 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations in the field of human rights (Romania);**

96.34 **Finalize implementation of the unimplemented UPR recommendations from the first cycle review (Kuwait);**

96.35 **Endeavour to implement the remaining recommendations of the previous and present UPR process (Mozambique);**

96.36 **Establish an interministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia for implementing UPR recommendations and drafting overdue reports to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies (Portugal);**

96.37 **Submit the various overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

96.38 **Strengthen cooperation with treaty bodies (Niger);**

96.39 **Continue to undertake measures to promote and enhance the rights of women (Singapore);**

96.40 **Incorporate in its legislation a definition of discrimination against women and the principle of equality between men and women, in keeping with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Canada);**

96.41 **Make it a government priority to ensure gender equality in all spheres of life, including by formulating a comprehensive strategy to eliminate attitudes and practices that discriminate against women and girls (Slovenia);**

96.42 **Make it a priority to ensure gender equality in all spheres of life, and that Guinea-Bissau formulates a comprehensive strategy to eliminate negative attitudes and practices that affect women and girls (Netherlands);**

96.43 **Further promote gender equality and women's participation in public life (Rwanda);**

96.44 **To take steps to increase women's participation in society as well as to further secure the rights of women and girls (Trinidad and Tobago);**

96.45 Promote further women's rights in the field of education and health (Niger);

96.46 Strengthen measures to fight discrimination against women and children, particularly in rural areas (Senegal);

96.47 Continue making progress in the implementation of legislative provisions to prohibit and combat discrimination against children with disabilities, children with HIV/AIDS, and girls, in line with the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommendation (Chile);

96.48 Consider enacting specific legislation which prohibits discrimination against certain groups of children, particularly girls, children with disabilities and children living with HIV/AIDS (Namibia);

96.49 Take concrete measures to combat discrimination against all children, including by creating a specific comprehensive strategy to eliminate negative attitudes and practices that discriminate against children and to encourage girls to attend school (Estonia);

96.50 Continue to improve conditions of detention (Djibouti);

96.51 Improve detention conditions for all, particularly women and youth (Rwanda);

96.52 Ensure the effective implementation of the recently adopted legislation aimed at fighting discrimination and violence against women (Italy);

96.53 Implement existing laws to prosecute sexual and gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation as well as domestic violence, and to address legal gaps and other deficiencies in measures to combat sexual and gender-based violence effectively (Germany);

96.54 Complement legislative efforts to improve women's rights with public awareness campaigns on Female Genital Mutilation or cutting and protection against abuse and sexual violence (United States of America);

96.55 Raise awareness of the criminalization of female genital mutilation and also ensure perpetrators of female genital mutilation are brought to justice (Australia);

96.56 Accelerate the implementation of the national plan to combat female genital mutilation so that this practice is eradicated and effectively criminalized, and additionally, strengthen education and awareness-raising programmes (Chile);

96.57 Take measures to enforce the criminalization of female genital mutilation, ensuring that offenders are prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law, as well as re-enforcing public education and awareness-raising programmes aimed at eliminating this practice (Ireland);

96.58 Assess the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Female Genital Mutilation Cutting (Italy);

96.59 Identify lessons learned and develop a new action plan to reduce the incidence of the heinous practice of female genital mutilation/cutting (Italy);

96.60 Draw up a follow-up plan to the Action Plan to Combat Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting, which includes evaluation mechanisms of outcomes and measures to make effective the punishment of such practices, as well as appropriate budget allocations for its implementation in rural areas (Mexico);

96.61 **Improve the implementation of the National Action Plan on Female Genital Mutilation, by strengthening it with awareness-raising campaigns and by working with traditional leaders in order to fully eradicate this practice, while strengthening likewise the means and initiatives of the National Committee for the Elimination of Harmful Practices (Spain);**

96.62 **Continue to fight against female genital mutilation and early marriages (Djibouti);**

96.63 **Take practical steps, including through public information campaigns and greater community-level engagement, to accelerate the eradication of FGM and to reduce the number of child, early and forced marriages (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

96.64 **Enhance efforts to eliminate FGM, as well as the early and enforced marriage of girls (Portugal);**

96.65 **Continue deepening measures aimed at achieving the eradication of practices such as female genital mutilation and cutting, as well as forced marriages (Argentina);**

96.66 **Continue its efforts to fight against discrimination and violence against women, in particular with regard to FGM and forced and early marriages (France);**

96.67 **Enforce national legislation in rural areas in order to prevent child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**

96.68 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage (Maldives);**

96.69 **Take measures to prevent child, early and forced marriages, including through awareness-raising campaigns and measures for the monitoring of the implementation of existing legislation and by promoting the enrolment of girls in schools (Canada);**

96.70 **Adopt measures that ensure compliance with the Law on Reproductive Health, by promoting the provision of education allowances in areas with high rates of forced and early marriages (Spain);**

96.71 **Investigate and vigorously prosecute crimes perpetuated against vulnerable groups, such as the disabled and persons with albinism (Sierra Leone);**

96.72 **Take the necessary measures to prevent the ritual murder of persons with albinism, children with disabilities, twins, and children accused of practising witchcraft, to investigate and prosecute those suspected of committing these crimes, and to increase efforts to raise awareness of the need to eradicate such practices (Ireland);**

96.73 **Adopt specific laws that prohibit discrimination and protect girls, children with disabilities and children with HIV/AIDS; undertake, in addition, awareness-raising campaigns to promote the dignity and rights of children with albinism, twins, children with disabilities and children accused of witchcraft, in order to combat the abandonment and/or execution, of which they are victims (Mexico);**

96.74 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Slovenia);**

96.75 Take measures to prevent violence against women and girls, particularly by the development of a strategy for protection and social reintegration in order to reduce child trafficking and sexual abuse (Canada);

96.76 Take the necessary steps to combat sexual trafficking and abuses of children, including through improving the judicial system, strengthening the relevant government institutions and providing educational treatment and restorative support to the victims (Thailand);

96.77 Enforce legislation that criminalizes child trafficking, through investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenses, reconvene the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Trafficking, and allocate specific funds to the committee for implementation of a national action plan (United States of America);

96.78 Develop legislation to protect all children from the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation (United States of America);

96.79 Adopt a comprehensive policy for the protection of children that provides, in particular, strengthening the combat against child labour and trafficking (France);

96.80 Consider the feasibility of implementing social protection programmes that would assist in addressing the problem of child labour (Egypt);

96.81 Finalize the preparation of the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour (Ethiopia);

96.82 Take appropriate measures to address the economic exploitation of children and ensure full respect of their rights in compliance with the international standards set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO fundamental conventions (Italy);

96.83 Pursue reforms in the justice sector (Algeria);

96.84 Continue the reform process of the justice system (Angola);

96.85 Continue to take measures to strengthen the justice system (Singapore);

96.86 Adopt measures to strengthen the judicial system for the provision of effective, independent and credible service (Botswana);

96.87 Step up and accelerate the process of reform of the judicial and penitentiary systems to ensure access to justice regardless of economic status, gender, social origin or political position (Spain);

96.88 Speed up judicial reforms in order to guarantee the functioning of the judiciary with the highest international human rights standards, and in particular facilitate access to justice for all persons on an equal footing without discrimination (Costa Rica);

96.89 Take concrete steps to ensure the independence of the judiciary (Sweden);

96.90 Reinforce plans and programmes to strengthen and guarantee the independence and effectiveness of judicial institutions, by providing them with adequate structures and financial resources (Chile);

96.91 Further action to ensure that court services are available in all regions, and that fees associated with court action are not prohibitive (New Zealand);

96.92 Adopt follow-up actions to the national justice plan, which include administrative measures to ensure access to the justice system, training programmes, and legislative measures on safeguards to guarantee the independence of the judiciary (Mexico);

96.93 Provide adequate resources, including taking capacity-building measures, to enable the judiciary and the legal authorities to function properly (Sweden);

96.94 Urgently accelerate reforms to the justice sector in order to ensure that members of the judiciary receive adequate legal training in preparation for their assignment, and that access to courts is facilitated by ensuring that enough courts exist in all regions, as well as by taking measures to allow persons without sufficient means to also access the court system (Germany);

96.95 Continue to strengthen and promote the rule of law based on effective and accountable state institutions, through, inter alia, the reform of the defence sector and the adoption of measures to foster independence of the Judiciary (Brazil);

96.96 Continue to engage its international and regional development partners for support in the continued implementation of its defence and security sector reform initiatives, and to take initial steps to ensure that law enforcement personnel are provided with appropriate human rights education and training (Philippines);

96.97 Undertake reforms in the defence and security sectors to avoid military interference in government affairs and to create the necessary conditions to put in place the rule of law (Costa Rica);

96.98 Consolidate its justice, security and defence sector reforms to prevent the recurrence of coups d'état and ensure a sustainable constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau (Ghana);

96.99 Prosecute human rights violations committed by members of the security service and to take measures that the judiciary can work independently without being hindered by persons related to organized crime or the security sector and others (Germany);

96.100 Complete the reform of the security sector in order to ensure its conformity with international norms and to guarantee full respect of human rights by the security forces (France);

96.101 Strengthen the judiciary in order to fight against impunity and all forms of crime (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

96.102 Combat the prevailing impunity, thereby defending victims' rights and promoting respect for human rights (Portugal);

96.103 Take the necessary measures to fight against impunity for human rights violations, regardless of who the perpetrators are (France);

96.104 Take steps to end impunity, and to bring to justice those responsible for human rights abuses or violations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

96.105 Address the serious impunity issues regarding alleged arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention of government critics (Australia);

96.106 **Ensure respect of the rights and fundamental freedoms of the entire population, in particular women and children, and adopt all necessary measures to ensure the fight against impunity, by initiating investigations in order to identify the perpetrators of acts of violence and of all human rights violations (Argentina);**

96.107 **Bring juvenile justice into conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Mali);**

96.108 **Create a legal framework that gives sufficient protection for "whistle-blowers" testifying in crimes related to corruption (Sweden);**

96.109 **Provide enough financial and personnel resources to enable the Attorney General's office, as well as law enforcement authorities, to fight corruption in the country (Sweden);**

96.110 **Consider implementing possible legislative mechanisms that would assist in combating transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking and money-laundering (Egypt);**

96.111 **Take urgent steps to adopt all appropriate measures to combat the root causes of political instability in Guinea-Bissau, including tackling illicit drug-related corruption and money-laundering (Ghana);**

96.112 **Give priority to ensuring protection of freedom of speech (Australia);**

96.113 **Continue to enhance its programmes towards employment of its youth in the agriculture and fisheries sectors (Philippines);**

96.114 **Continue to deepen efforts in the human rights field, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, so as to improve the living conditions of its people, in particular of the most vulnerable sectors (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

96.115 **Continue the fight against poverty as one of the country's key priorities (Cuba);**

96.116 **Strengthen policies aimed at reducing poverty (Angola);**

96.117 **Adopt appropriate measures to reduce the high rate of people living in extreme poverty (Togo);**

96.118 **Continue to prioritize poverty alleviation in its efforts to raise the living standards of its people (China);**

96.119 **Continue efforts to reduce poverty, particularly through the implementation of the 2011–2015 National Strategy (Algeria);**

96.120 **Take significant measures to reduce poverty, especially taking into consideration the rights of children (Maldives);**

96.121 **Remain to be active in seeking the continuing support of the international community for the realization of its employment-generation and poverty-alleviation programmes (Philippines);**

96.122 **Develop a sustainable mechanism to protect its population against food insecurity, through prevention strategies and the implementation of social programmes (Turkey);**

96.123 **Explore possible ways of providing an adequate allocation of human, financial and technical resources to the health sector so as to ensure access to quality health services (Egypt);**

96.124 **Further enhance efforts to reduce infant and maternal mortality (Ethiopia);**

96.125 **Strengthen efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality (South Africa);**

96.126 **Enhance efforts to reduce the high maternal and under-five morbidity and mortality rates (Portugal);**

96.127 **Intensify its efforts to significantly reduce the rate of maternal and under-five child mortality and morbidity (Togo);**

96.128 **Continue its efforts to reduce the maternal and child mortality rates, in particular by taking preventive measures, conducting vaccination campaigns, as well as formulating a comprehensive plans and strategy in health sectors (Indonesia);**

96.129 **Increase the health budget allocation to the recommended minimum of 15 per cent of GDP, in line with commitments under the Abuja Declaration, in order to counter the alarming maternal and under-five mortality and morbidity rates (Slovenia);**

96.130 **Take all necessary measures to reduce the number of HIV/AIDS infections by means of enhancing national education programmes, and increase efforts to ensure the availability and access to antiretroviral treatment drugs (Namibia);**

96.131 **Improve the health and education systems (Angola);**

96.132 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights, in addition to improving the education and health system (Kuwait);**

96.133 **Create conditions for the most vulnerable to have access to basic education and health services (Rwanda);**

96.134 **Implement all possible measures to improve the country's education system (Cuba);**

96.135 **Improve the development of education by increasing school enrolment and improving the quality of education (China);**

96.136 **Continue to take steps to raise education standards (Singapore);**

96.137 **Continue its efforts to improve the national education system and to include human rights education in the school curricula (Sudan);**

96.138 **Increase funding for education and enforce compulsory schooling for all children (Slovenia);**

96.139 **Take the necessary measures to ensure access to education without discrimination and establish universal free primary education (Turkey);**

96.140 **Pursue its efforts to provide access to education to all children (Togo);**

96.141 **To put in place measures to increase access to education for all children and improve the educational infrastructure and quality of education (Trinidad and Tobago);**

96.142 **Seek to ensure access to education for all children and to improve the educational infrastructure and the quality of education (Egypt);**

96.143 **Establish a national plan to ensure universal access to education (Morocco);**

96.144 Pursue its efforts aimed at allowing all children to have access to schooling and address disparities in access to education (Mauritania);

96.145 Enhance efforts to ensure that all children have access to free, compulsory and quality primary education (Portugal);

96.146 Ensure free primary education for all without any discrimination, including by increasing funding for education (Estonia);

96.147 Work towards enforcing the law on the education system and increase financial support specifically for education to ensure that all children receive education, and upgrade the educational infrastructure and the quality of education (Libya);

96.148 Establish the necessary conditions to provide access for the most vulnerable population to basic education and relaunch its policy to encourage the enrolment of girls in schools (Gabon);

96.149 Progressively realize the right to education for all, by creating conditions in which the most vulnerable receive access to basic education, and in this context, to implement a policy to also encourage girls to attend school (Germany);

96.150 Increase funding for education; ensure access to education for all children; overcome gender disparities in access to education and improve the educational infrastructure and the quality of education (Namibia);

96.151 Continue to call upon the international community to provide financial and technical support in order to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights by its people and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (Senegal).

97. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[*English only*]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Guinea-Bissau was headed by Mr. José Antônio Gonçalves, Adviser to the Minister of Justice on Strategic Planning, and was composed of the following members:

- Ms. Aida Injai Fernandes, President of the National Human Rights Commission;
- Mr. Cletche Sanha, Director of the Treaties Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Luis Vaz Martins, President of the National Human Rights League.